

AN UPDATE FROM AQUASURE



Have you visited the Victorian Desalination Project's (VDP) ecological reserve at the plant site yet?

As we enter spring the reserve is looking great. The horticultural team have been busy over the past six months with regular maintenance works which have included infill planting of around 100,000 additional plants, all of which have been locally sourced.

It has been pleasing to see so many people enjoying the 8kms of walking trails and bike paths throughout the winter months. Reliable sources have advised of some interesting bird sightings including an Australasian Bittern (a protected species and noteworthy), flocks of blue winged parrots, many waterbirds and other fairly common but interesting species like white fronted chats.

We do remind the community that the ecological reserve is for the enjoyment of all, so while walking, cycling and horse riding is permitted (and encouraged!) within the specifically designated areas, cars and motorbikes are not.

Operations and maintenance contractor Watersure will conduct a "whole of system test" of the desalination plant this month.

Scheduled as part of the ongoing operation and maintenance program, the check is being undertaken to reconfirm the readiness of the plant to operate as required under the contract. It involves the start-up and operation of key process systems in sequence including, seawater pumping, pre-treatment filtration, desalination and associated services. Seawater will be drawn in, filtered and desalinated.

Only seawater (recombined brine and desalinated water) will be sent back to the ocean in accordance with the EPA discharge licence. The check does not involve remineralising the water to drinking water standards or the delivery of water into the transfer pipeline or the water network. It is being undertaken entirely at the cost of Watersure.

On the personnel front, we welcome Greig Mercer as the new Plant Director.

Greig has been working with the project as Production Manager for the last three years. He is replacing Mike Jury who was engaged to lead the team through the construction and into the early operations phase of the project, which is now complete. Although Mike may be leaving the area for a while, with his whole family having taken Australian citizenship, I'm sure he'll be back surfing off Willamson's beach before too long.

Now we're fully into the operations phase Watersure has a permanent team of more than 50 staff working at the plant site the majority of whom live in Bass Coast Shire. Watersure have also established over 100 contracts with suppliers to provide services and products to the plant. On any given day there are between 10 and 30 local contractors working directly on the desalination plant site.

Training and development of staff is continuous, and as part of this process Watersure will be further training their operators in the use of the carbon dioxide (CO₂) system on site over the next few months. This system is part of the final stages of creating drinking water where lime and CO₂ are added. It is expected that this will take place from October through to December.

The community may notice CO₂ deliveries to site during this time (up to 36 trucks in total), but not more than one delivery per day will occur over this period.

Site tours continue to be extremely popular and are fully booked through until the end of October, with limited availability until the end of the year. Interestingly there has been a significant increase in the number of requests for school site visits. Please be reminded that community group tours must be booked in advance, through the community contact line: 1800 811 214.

Architects Peckvohartel and Ashton Raggatt McDougal were recently awarded the Sir Osborn McCutcheon Award for Commercial Architecture by the Australian Institute of Architects (Victoria) for their excellent work in designing the VDP so that it fits so well into its location. The project now progresses through to the national awards in November.

We are very proud to have achieved what the State's requirements and the design and construct approach intended - a plant that effectively disappears into the coastal landscape, plus the added benefit of being surrounded by the ecological reserve that grows and improves month by month. Please enjoy the reserve when you visit and help us to preserve it for future generations.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matt Brassington". The signature is stylized and written in a cursive-like font.

Matt Brassington CEO, AquaSure

**WATER NOW
AND FOR THE FUTURE.
FOR SURE.**

www.aquasure.com.au

AQUASURE

WATERSURE



THIASS